

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 093358

12

ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: EUR/NE:NGANDREWS:CN

APPROVED BY: EUR-MR STABLER

----- 055639

R 070105Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 093358

FOR SISCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT REYKJAVIK 615 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF
CINCLANT COMICEDEFOR NATO BONN COPENHAGEN LONDON OSLO
STOCKHOLM 06 MAY

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0615

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ECON MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IMMINENT FALL OF ICELANDIC GOVT

1. ON MAY 4 OLL MINISTER BJORN JONSSON RESIGNED FROM CABINET
OVER THE ECONOMIC ISSUE. ON MAY 5 OLL MET TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY
OF WITHDRAWAL OF PARTY FROM GOVT, BUT OLL MINISTER MAGNUS TORFI
OLAFSSON WAS BALKING. THIS MORNING OLAFSSON STATED HE WILL REMAIN
IN GOVT AND TAKE OVER JONSSON'S PORTFOLIO. SOON THEREAFTER OLL
CHAIRMAN HANNIBAL VALDIMARSSON ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL OF OLL FROM
GOVT AND CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER TO RESIGN. OLAFSSON THEN
ANNOUNCED HIS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OLL PARLIAMENTARY GROUP,
AND REITERATED HIS SUPPORT OF GOVT, THUS SPLITTING THE OLL.
OLL ACTION NOW PUTS THE OPPOSITION CLEARLY IN THE MAJORITY,
TOTALLING AT LEAST 31 TO 29. THE 31 ARE COMPOSED OF 22 INDEPENDENCE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 093358

PARTY, 6 SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND 3 OLL.

2. THIS AFTERNOON IN ALTHING PRIMEMIN STATED THAT SINCE IT IS OBVIOUS HIS GOVT NO LONGER ENJOYS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY, HE HAS ONLY TWO CHOICES: DISSOLVE THE ALTHING AND CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS SOON, OR RESIGN HIS GOVT. HE SAID HE WOULD MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT DAY OR SO AS TO WHICH HE WILL DO, FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS OWN PARTY AND WITH LEADERS OF OTHER PARTIES. VALDIMARSSON, WHO DOES NOT WANT ELECTIONS BEFORE SEPT, CHALLENGED CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF PRIME MINISTER TO DISSOLVE ALTHING, CLAIMING THAT ONLY ALTHING CAN MAKE THIS DETERMINATION SINCE PRESENT GOVT IS NO LONGER IN MAJORITY.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PP) CAUCUS THIS EVENING, PP PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HAS REFUSED TO GIVE PRIMEMIN APPROVAL TO DISSOLVE ALTHING AND INSTEAD HAS ASKED HIM TO TRY TO FORM A FIVE-PARTY UNIVERSAL INTERIM GOVT WITH NEW ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN SEPT.

4. COMMENT: WE SHOULD KNOW WITHIN NEXT 48 TO 72 HOURS AS TO WHEN NEW ELECTIONS WILL BE CALLED. ONLY THE PEOPLES ALLIANCE AND SOME MEMBERS OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY WANT IMMEDIATE ELECTIONS. ALL OTHERS WANT THE ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER. THE PRESENT GOVT HAS NOT (RPT NOT) YET FALLEN, BUT POLITICAL ANALYSTS HERE SAY THIS IS NOW ONLY A TECHNICALITY.
IRVING
UNQUOTE RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, PARTY PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH, PARTY MEETINGS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE093358
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/NE:NGANDREWS:CN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740109-0973
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740568/aaaacimv.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMMINENT FALL OF ICELANDIC GOVT
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, MARR, IC, NATO, (JONSSON, BJORN)
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005